

Data Flash

Addressing the informational needs of the Miami-Dade Community



Issue #24 • 2015

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in Miami-Dade County

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released its monthly estimates at the county level for labor force, employment and unemployment. This issue of Data Flash examines the estimates from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program. This program reports data from a survey of households. Therefore, it represents the labor force characteristics of the residents of Miami-Dade regardless of where they work. The data discussed below is seasonally adjusted.

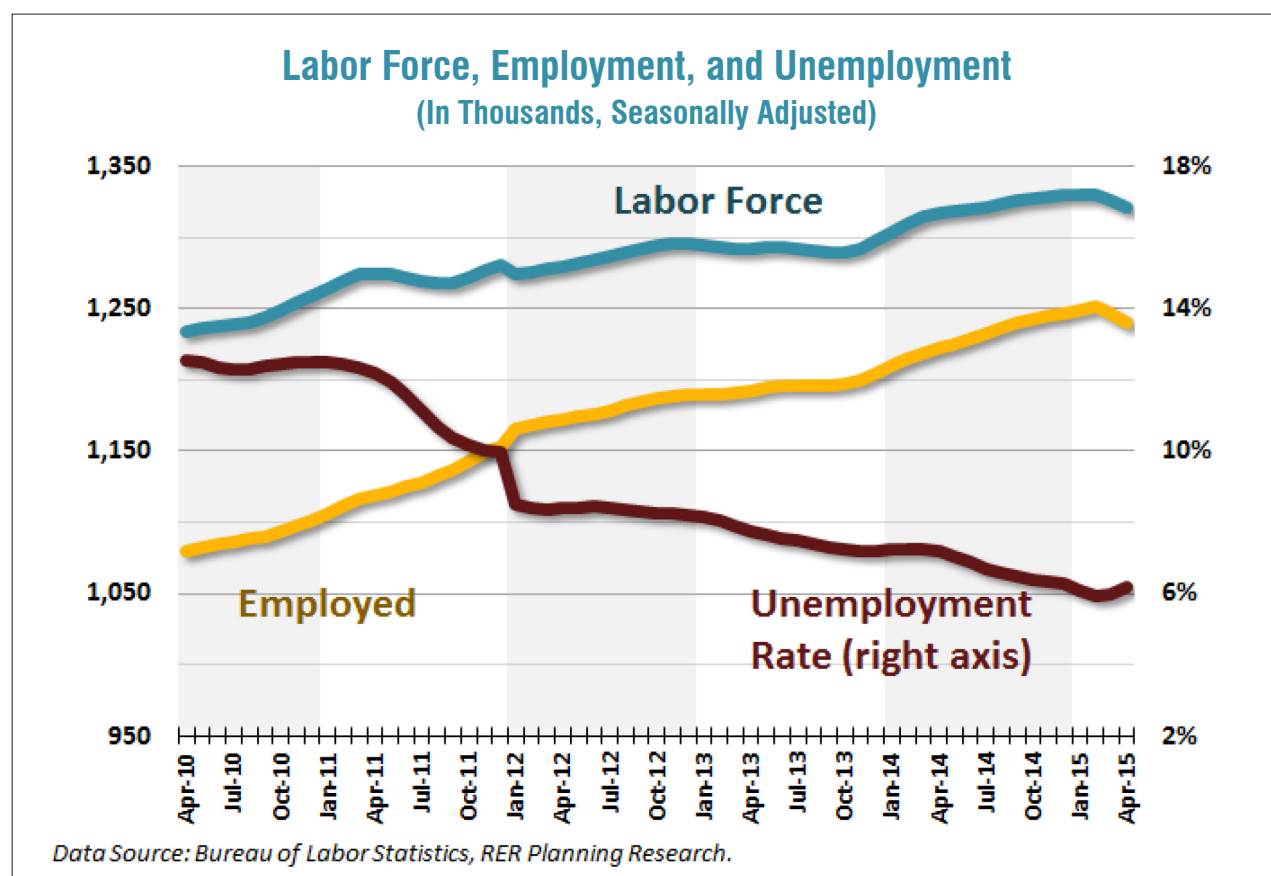
In Miami-Dade County, month over month, job growth stumbled in April according to the BLS. Over-the-month, the size of the labor force dropped 0.3% (4,400 people). Similarly, employment decreased 0.5% (6,600 jobs) to 1.240 million jobs from 1.247 million jobs in the previous month.

Meanwhile, the job losses put pressure on the unemployment rate. Over-the-month, the Miami-Dade County unemployment rate increased 20 basis points to 6.2% in April, a jobless gain of nearly 2,200. On the other hand, despite a similar decrease in employment statewide, Florida's unemployment rate moved in the opposite direction. Statewide month-on-month employment declined 0.3% (27,300 jobs). At the same time, the labor force,

the total pool of available and willing workers, declined more, 0.4% (34,900 people). This resulted in the unemployment rate dropping 10 basis points from 5.7% in March to April's 5.6%.

Caution should be taken when analyzing the month-over-month changes in LAUS data. The preliminary monthly figures tend to fluctuate. The numbers are also subject to revisions which, at times, can be greater than the original changes in the data. The longer-term trends, however, are more meaningful.

Over-the-year, the labor force, employment and unemployment figures saw improvement at both the County and the State levels. In Miami-Dade County, the labor force increased 0.4% in April from the same month a year ago to 1.322 million people from 1.317 million, and employment gained 1.5% to 1.24 million from 1.22 million jobs. Unemployment decreased by 13.9% from 94,500 a year ago. In Florida, the labor force expanded to 9.5 million people, with an additional 1% of workers coming back into the labor pool, a gain of 97,900 people compared to a year ago. Statewide employment grew 1.9% to 9.1 million jobs, and the unemployment rate decreased 0.8%, resulting in a reduction of nearly 68,700 persons from the number of unemployed.



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Miami-Dade (Seasonally Adjusted)				Change from		(%) Chg from	
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	Mar-15	Apr-14	Mar-15	Apr-14
Labor Force	1,321,710	1,326,154	1,317,045	(4,444)	4,665	-0.3%	0.4%
Employment	1,240,336	1,246,941	1,222,533	(6,605)	17,803	-0.5%	1.5%
Unemployment	81,374	79,213	94,512	2,161	(13,138)	2.7%	-13.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.0%	7.2%	0.2%	-1.0%		

Florida (Seasonally Adjusted)				Change from		(%) Chg from	
	Apr-15	Mar-15	Apr-14	Mar-15	Apr-14	Mar-15	Apr-14
Labor Force	9,638,676	9,673,605	9,540,737	(34,929)	97,939	-0.4%	1.0%
Employment	9,096,989	9,124,336	8,930,381	(27,347)	166,608	-0.3%	1.9%
Unemployment	541,687	549,269	610,356	(7,582)	(68,669)	-1.4%	-11.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.7%	6.4%	-0.1%	-0.8%		